

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 10, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-12 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. New claims 13-43 have been added to more fully define Applicant's contribution to the art. As a result, claims 1-43 are pending for examination with claims 1, 8, 13, and 25-27 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicant's representatives appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Roman in granting a telephone interview on January 31, 2007. The substance of the interview is described herein. During the telephone interview, Applicants representatives inquired about the rejections of claims 1 and 8 in view of the cited references, and the rejections were discussed. Examiner Roman explained his reasoning in applying these rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Shinoda, U.S. Patent No. 4,779,036. The Office Action also rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Ueda et al. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Shinoda, particularly in the portion cited in the Office Action, describes that the signal applied to the gate of a thyristor is such that a halfwave of the signal is sufficient to trigger the thyristor. Shinoda only repeats the triggering pulse in the form of a high frequency signal for the case in which the high frequency signal or the biasing voltage of the thyristor is impaired by spurious pulses (bad "environmental conditions"). Thus, the thyristor usually turns on in response to triggering pulses, but sometimes fails to do so.

By contrast, claim 1 as amended recites:

A method for controlling an SCR-type switch, comprising applying to a switch gate several periods of an unrectified high frequency voltage, **a power of each halfwave of the unrectified high frequency voltage being insufficient to start the SCR-type switch.**

Shinoda does not teach or suggest that a power of each halfwave of the unrectified high frequency voltage is insufficient to start an SCR-type switch. Rather, as discussed above some of Shinoda's pulses are sufficient to start the thyristor. Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Shinoda. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

In FIG. 2B, Ueda illustrates a semiconductor switch that includes an anode (A) 30, a cathode (K) 33, and a gate 34. A small portion of gate 34 appears to be disposed on an insulating film 23. However, gate 34 directly contacts the P and N type semiconductor regions of the semiconductor switch, and is not insulated therefrom.

By contrast, claim 8 recites:

An SCR-type switch component, comprising two main electrodes and at least one control electrode formed on **an insulating layer that insulates the control electrode from a starting region of the component**, said control electrode controlling the SCR-type switch component in response to an unrectified high frequency power supply.

Ueda does not teach or suggest an insulating layer that insulates the control electrode from a starting region of the component. Rather, as illustrated in FIG. 2B of Ueda, insulating film 23 of Ueda does not insulate gate electrode 34 from the starting area (e.g., P type well 20) of the switch because gate electrode 34 extends to the side of insulating film 23 and directly contacts the starting area. Therefore, claim 8 patentably distinguishes over Ueda. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12 depend from claim 8 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

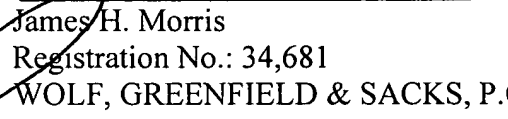
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: February 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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